



Learn Before You Burn

Avoid up
to \$10,000
in fines.

- Before doing agricultural, land clearing or other types of large scale burning, contact Ecology to determine if you need a permit. A permit will describe the steps you must take before conducting your burn.
- If residential yard and garden waste burning is legal in your area, your pile must be less than 3 feet high and 4 feet wide.
- Notify your fire district before lighting any outdoor fire. Burn only when your smoke will rise and be carried away from neighborhoods and populated areas.
- One of the most common air quality violations is illegal outdoor burning. It pays to know the rules before you burn. People who burn illegally are subject to fines of up to \$10,000 per day, per violation. You can also be held responsible for fire suppression costs.

Resources and Contacts

Washington State Department of Ecology	(509) 575-2490
Washington Agricultural Burn Hotline	1-800-406-5322
Washington State Department of Natural Resources	1-800-527-3305
Kittitas County Public Works	(509) 962-7523
Kittitas County Conservation District	(509) 925-8585 ext. 4

Fire Departments

Cle Elum	(509) 674-5785
Ellensburg	(509) 962-7299
Kittitas	(509) 968-0220
Roslyn	(509) 649-3105
South Cle Elum	(509) 674-2112

Contact your local fire department before starting any outdoor fire.



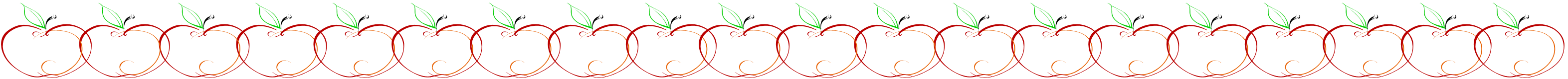
For more information about outdoor burning in Kittitas County, please contact the Washington Department of Ecology’s Central Regional Office
15 West Yakima Avenue -- Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452
(509) 575-2490
Toll-free Air Quality and Smoke Complaint Line:
1-866-211-6284
www.ecy.wa.gov

If you need this document in another format, please call Tami Dahlgren at (360) 407-6830. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711 or 1-800-833-6388 for TTY.

Learn Before You Burn
in
Kittitas County:
How does the law
affect you?

A Resident’s Guide to Outdoor Burning
Regulations and Resources

Publication No.
06-02-017-A





Prohibited Materials and Burn Barrels

Burning household waste and other garbage is prohibited. In Washington State, it is only legal to burn natural vegetation.

Burning anything in a burn barrel, including natural vegetation, is illegal. Burning in a barrel limits the amount of oxygen that can get to a fire, which results in lower burn temperatures, incomplete combustion, excessive smoke, and more toxic substances released into the air. The smoke from a burn barrel stays close to the ground, making it difficult for people to avoid breathing toxic smoke.

Did you know that smoke from burn barrels can make your child’s asthma worse?



Burn Bans

A burn ban is issued due to impaired air quality or extreme fire danger. Ecology, the Governor, the County Fire Marshall, or local Fire Districts may issue burn bans. If you are planning to burn, call the Agricultural Burn Hotline at 1-800-406-5322 to find out if it is a good day to burn in your area. Contact your local fire department or the Department of Ecology before starting any fires.

What Types of Burning are Allowed?

Residential and land clearing burning will not be allowed in Cle Elum, Kittitas, Roslyn, and South Cle Elum Urban Growth Areas* starting January 1, 2007. Residential and land clearing burning has been banned in the Ellensburg Urban Growth Area since 2000.

- **Residential burning** is outdoor burning of leaves, clippings, prunings, and other yard and gardening debris from residential property. If residential yard and garden waste burning is legal in your area, you may burn one pile of natural vegetation no larger than 4 feet wide and 3 feet high. Your pile must be at least fifty feet from structures and five hundred feet from forest slash. Smoke from your pile must not impact your neighbors. You must be in attendance and able to put the fire out at all times.
- **Land clearing burning** is outdoor burning of trees, stumps, shrubbery, or other natural vegetation so the land surface can be cleared and developed, or used for a different purpose.
- **Silvicultural burning** is outdoor burning on forest protected lands regulated by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the protection of life, property, public health, safety, and welfare. To find out if you are on forest-protected lands, contact DNR at 1-800-527-3305.
- **Agricultural burning** requires a burn permit from Ecology, with the exception of orchard prunings, ditch banks and fence rows. For information about agricultural burning, contact the Washington Department of Ecology’s Central Regional Office at (509) 575-2490.
- **Recreational fires** include campfires, backyard barbecues, and chimeneas. Recreational fires are allowed year-round, unless a burn ban is in place. Only briquettes, propane, or bare, untreated, dry firewood is okay to burn in a recreational fire. Fires must be no larger than **3 feet in diameter** and must be attended at all times. **Disposal of yard debris in a recreational fire is illegal.**

**The Urban Growth Areas include the city limits and an area around each city. For more information about Urban Growth Area boundaries, consult the Kittitas County Planning Department at (509) 962-7506.*

Keep It Clean!

We take pride in our quality of life in Central Washington, and we want to keep our air clean. The air we breathe today is cleaner than it has been in decades. Improvements in air quality are the result of many actions, including the implementation of the 1991 Washington State Clean Air Act and increased citizen awareness. **Outdoor burning across the state is limited to natural vegetation.** This brochure includes alternatives to outdoor burning, contacts for outdoor burning programs in Chelan County, and the health effects caused by outdoor burning. Ecology encourages you to find ways to preserve air quality by knowing the rules and choosing alternatives to outdoor burning.

Why Shouldn’t I Burn?

Even unprocessed natural vegetation, such as lawn clippings, leaves, and pine needles, produce **air pollutants** when burned, including **carbon monoxide** and **fine particulates**, which are inhaled into the lungs and can have serious health impacts. Children, the elderly, and those suffering from chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis are the most vulnerable to poor air quality. Reducing air pollution is one way Ecology is working to decrease toxics in the environment.

Alternatives to Burning Yard Debris

- Design a landscape that allows debris to remain in place, featuring native trees and plants.
- Compost yard waste; add the organic material back into your garden.
- Dispose of large yard waste by using a mulching lawn mower and put the nutrients back into your landscape.
- Encourage your community to invest in a community chipper or rent a chipper with your neighbors, using chips for landscape material or mulch.
- Call your Kittitas County solid waste department at (509) 962-7542 for recycling and transfer station information.
- Haul yard waste to the nearest recycling or transfer station.

